

BROOKLYN'S POLICE MATRON.

Mrs. Cox, the First Woman Appointed, Assumes Her Duties.

She is Snuggly Quarters in the New Eighteenth Precinct Station.

Police Matron Helen Jessie Cox, the first appointed in Brooklyn under the law passed through the efforts of THE EVENING WORLD, entered upon her duties today at the Eighteenth Precinct Station, Fourth avenue and Forty-third street, in that city.

Mrs. Cox appears to be everything that one might imagine a police matron should be.



HELEN JESSIE COX.

A reporter of THE EVENING WORLD found her engaged in reading the morning paper in her cozy and comfortable office, set apart for her in Acting Capt. Sam Hardy's brand new station-house. It is a room only 6 by 12 feet in dimensions, just back of the sergeant's desk. It is hard-finished, with oak doorcases and wainscoting, and has a folding-bed of oak and a rocker and standard chair of the same substantial wood.

A small rug on the hardwood floor furnishes the only color in the place, and there is a toilet-room off the office for the matron's convenience.

Matron Cox is a widow. She was born in Bridgetown, Barbadoes, about forty years ago. Certainly not more than that, though she bustling and smilingly confessed to being the mother of two sons of eighteen and twenty-three years respectively and to a knowledge of Barbadoes history.

Mrs. Cox is a small, compact matron, with a comfortable look and a comely face. She was clad in a well-fitting gown of brown, with brown velvet trimmings, and on her feet were almost tiny embroidered slippers. She was clean while apron of the nurse's style.

Her mild brown eyes were aided by a pair of nose-glasses; her wavy brown hair was curled by a dozen pins, and her collar was fastened by a jeweller's violet, from the heart of which sparkled a diamond.

Matron Cox, who has been married for twenty years, is the mother of three children. Her husband, a cooper, died in 1870, leaving her with three children, two of whom were at that time in the work of the family business.

Barbadoes has a population of 40,000, of whom more than half are negroes. As for the negroes under the matron's charge, I don't think there were a dozen white women in the whole twenty years.

As rough as some success must deal with her? Oh, they were most of them simply fine. They were violent, abusive, profligate and obscene.

There is an average, I am told, of from 75 to 100 female prisoners at this station every year," said Mrs. Cox.

"Most of them are arrested in summer. There are a few arrests in winter. The prisoners of both sexes are usually from the picnic grounds further to the south and west in the town of New York."

"They go back to town through this precinct, and the female arrested are usually intoxicated or disorderly persons."

The matron's room, which is the last of the 80,000, is a room that was opened March 12, is heated by steam.

Mrs. Cox said she would employ her twelve-hour tour of duty in sewing or reading or writing, glancing significantly at the lady who had already found it was down from her home at 254 Nassau street, Brooklyn.

"She showed her 'female prison' to her visitor. It consists of two cells of boiler iron, each six feet square. They are built in a room that is eight feet high, and the walls are painted white, and the floor is of polished wood. The cells are connected with the sergeant's office by a door for men on the right of this hallway."

The female prisoners' cells have perforated iron doors and graded floors. The cells are built on a platform, and above this is a slightly raised platform of wood. There are no beds or bunks, but the cells are covered with a blanket, and a steam radiator just outside in the cell room.

"I hope I shall never have to struggle with a prisoner," said the matron, "but I have seen them. Then, doubling her small fists and drawing up her arms, she added, half resignedly, half defiantly:

"But I passed a very creditable physical examination. Mrs. Cox was rated 95 1-2 per cent. in the competitive examination. She is to be relieved by a second woman, who is named 'the opposite' tour of duty. Mrs. Cox will have twelve hours duty for a week and then twelve hours night duty, alternating with Matron No. 2."

Mrs. Cox was the woman who was widowed thirteen years ago and then came to Brooklyn. She found employment as copyist for United States Commissioner Morie, who is also a Barbadian. She was then married to a man named Dr. Atkinson and other physicians as well as a lawyer, and bravely she struggled to bring up her boys.

HANGED TO A TELEGRAPH POLE.
The Noose Was a Lineman's Belt, and It Saved His Life.

A telegraph lineman had a remarkable and narrow escape from death yesterday out of Manhattan crossing. He was at work among the wires of a tall telegraph pole, and in attempting to throw his leg over a crossing, lost his balance and fell backward.

Persons who were looking at him closed their eyes in horror or turned their heads away. They expected to see a dead man at the bottom of the pole, but they saw to the contrary.

The man, who met their gaze when they looked again was a live man suspended in mid-air by his belt, which had caught on one of the iron spikes driven into the side of the pole for use as a support.

Police-men went up the pole to his assistance and saw that he was all right. The incident was considered of less importance by the telegraph men than by the spectators. He climbed up the pole again, completed what he had undertaken to do and then came down and all away.

PARSHLEY SUES FOR \$6,850.
He Wants Pay Now for Prosecuting Pastor Milten.

An old church scandal which stirred Brooklyn several years ago is recalled by the suit just entered by Frank E. Parshey, the architect and photographer, against the Trustees of the Washington Street M. E. Church.

Parshey presented the Rev. C. W. Milten, pastor of the church, and to secure evidence to convict him he says he spent \$6,850, which he now seeks to recover.

Mr. Parshey charged the minister, and his deacons, the trustees, who were his friends, with having conspired to defraud him of the church funds. The trustees deny it.

Campbell's Little Victim in Court. Seven-year-old Fred Patterson, of 100 Douglass street, who was kicked and severely injured by Patrick Campbell, a saloon-keeper of the Bowery, was carried into Judge Thayer's police court, by his father, this morning and swore out a formal complaint against Campbell.

ROCKWELL'S STEPS TRACED.

The Yucatan's Steward Almo Certainly Sandbagged.

He is Very Weak, and Still Unconscious and Delirious.

Walter Rockwell, the chief steward of the Ward line Yucatan, who was dragged and sandbagged last Tuesday and robbed of his money, is still lying in a critical condition at Mrs. Bradford's, his sister's house, 43 Broadway, Williamsburg. He raved all night, and at one time his life was almost despaired of.

Mrs. Bradford is very indignant at the reports that showing that her brother had been on a "big spree," and that neither sandbagging nor drugs had any connection in the case. She says that Dr. Hayden, of 622 Marcy avenue, their physician, will testify that he is a victim of some terrible drug, and is as yet unable to recall anything of talk.

One part of the mystery has, however, been solved. Mr. Joseph Wilkins, his friend, an officer on the Yucatan, of the same line, was with him on the evening the affair occurred. Seen by an EVENING WORLD reporter.

Mrs. Bradford's house is on the corner of Wilkins told the following story of the happenings to the evening up to the time they missed each other.

He and Rockwell went over to the steamer Tuesday morning, and after spending several hours with them, announced their intention of going to the steamer.

Before they left the steamer Rockwell showed him a roll of bills containing \$140. Wilkins, however, refused, telling him to stuff it in his pocket. He did so and they went to the steamer.

Upon arriving at the Fifth street road station they got out and went to the corner of Fifty-third street and Third avenue and saw three men in the street.

Wilkins said it was here that he saw Rockwell last. He felt a little sick and went out to the street. When he returned Rockwell was gone.

One of Inspector Brown's men called last evening and said that Rockwell was in the hospital, although it is more than likely that he was also sandbagged.

BREEZE AMONG THE ALDERMEN.
Mr. McKee's Motion for a Columbian Celebration at \$30,000 Cost.

Brooklyn's City Fathers' weekly session yesterday afternoon was brief, and little business was transacted. A resolution introduced by Alderman McKee aroused a storm of opposition and caused a spirited debate.

Preliminary business was the consideration of a communication from the Board of Aldermen of the Board of Assessors, asking for increased accommodations. It was placed on the calendar.

Alderman Thomas offered a resolution to pave Atlantic avenue from Classen avenue to the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge. The cost of the project was \$325,000, which was adopted.

The chairman appointed a committee of five to secure a proper municipal celebration of the centennial anniversary of the discovery of America, and that the Corporation Counsel be instructed to draft a bill to be presented to the Legislature authorizing the transfer of \$30,000 for that purpose from the revenue account to the contingency fund.

Alderman McKee then moved to divide his original resolution. It was then voted to appoint a committee to report next week's meeting on the subject of the resolution was laid upon the table.

At Chairman Pickering's suggestion Mr. McKee presented a memorial from the Citizens' Union and the motion for reconsideration was adopted.

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THE TWO NEW POLICE COURTS.

Seeking Official Homes for Justices, Haggerty and Watson.

Political and Other Pressure Bearing on the Aldermanic Committee.

Two Brooklyn Justices anxiously await the result of the deliberations of three Aldermen, who are considering the matter of providing quarters for their courts.

The Justices are Henry Haggerty, a star Democrat from the Eleventh Ward, and William Watson, a former East New York Justice of the Peace and Republican ex-supervisor. Aldermen Pickering, McGarry and Thomas compose the special committee appointed to decide the location of the courts-room to be built or hired at once for their occupancy.

The committee failed to get together as expected last Saturday night, so no conclusion was arrived at.

Chairman Pickering informed an EVENING WORLD reporter this morning, however, that the matter would be determined within a few days.

Justice Watson has expressed a preference for one of the big big-rooms in the Bennett Canal Building, in the Twenty-sixth Ward. Half a dozen (railroads, steam and surface, and other) are located in the vicinity.

That the city has not been called upon to pay large damages from accidents resulting from the construction of the street is as simply great good luck. Just now the danger is increased by the snow which conceals the holes.

The street was originally paved in a slipshod way. The paving stones ranged in size from the smallest cobble to irregular shaped boulders, many of which were loose.

Heavy trucks crushed the smaller stones, and the ruts thus caused became big holes into which vehicles were jolted when the wheels struck the boulders.

Christian Mueller, President of the Nineteenth Ward Taxpayers' Association, who lives at Walton street, and Marcy avenue, said to an EVENING WORLD reporter today:

"Walton street certainly ought to be repaved this spring. It will have to be repaved anyway, and it would be much wiser to lay a new pavement, which would not require constant digging up and repairing. It is about twenty years since the street was paved, and the money which has been spent in repairs would have laid two or three substantial pavements."

"It is dangerous in its present condition. A person is liable to be thrown out of a vehicle through a wheel sinking suddenly into one of the many holes of the road."

The street is injurious to the property of the taxpayers. It decreases the value of their property."

Superintendent W. J. Mills, of the North American Iron Works, and Secretary of the Nineteenth Ward Taxpayers' Association, said to the reporter:

"Citizens living on this thoroughfare are just as much annoyed by the holes as are those of any other neighborhood. No street in Brooklyn is in need of repaving than Walton street. It is a disgrace to the city with granite blocks. That the street is in such a state of disrepair is a disgrace to the city."

St. Bernard's, manufacturer at 49, 51 and 53 Walton street, thought an outrage upon the taxpayer's money. The street is left in a dangerous condition."

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TRAPS FOR LIFE AND LIMB.

Walton Street's Pavement Declared to Be Unsafe.

Property-Owners Demand that It Be Repaved with Belgian Blocks.

Taxpayers on Walton street, in the Eastern District of Brooklyn, are endeavoring to get that thoroughfare repaved. A petition in the hands of Commissioner of City Works Adams, praying that a new pavement of Belgian blocks be laid there, has been presented, and that as a result it has been deprived of support. The case came up for trial before Judge Cullen and a jury in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, this morning.

In the complaint it is recited that Schmidt keeps a liquor saloon at the corner of Second avenue and Ninth street, Brooklyn, and that he sells and gives away large quantities of intoxicating beverages."

Mrs. Margaret McCampbell is suing Bernard Schmidt, a saloon-keeper, for \$10,000 damages. She alleges that Schmidt sold liquor to her husband in spite of her constant protests, and that as a result he has been deprived of support. The case came up for trial before Judge Cullen and a jury in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, this morning.

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